

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, February 27, 2013

Present

Lee Godburn (chair)
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)
Barbara Arafah
Franca Biales
Richard Kamins
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Charlotte McCoid
Lea Tomaszewski
Linda Salafia (council)
Robert Santangelo (council)
Hannah Breton (Student rep)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

Fran Ganguli
Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Lauren Hodge (student rep)

Call to order

Commission Chair Lee Godburn called the meeting to order at 8:09 p.m. in the City Arts Office at 100 Riverview Center – Suite 140

Public session: None in attendance

Minutes from January 23, 2013

Motion to approve by Commissioner Richard Kamins, seconded by Commissioner Jenny Lecce.

Discussion: none. Passed with two abstentions: Commissioners Barbara Arafah and Robert Santangelo.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as written by Commissioner Joyce Kirkpatrick, seconded by Commissioner Kamins. Discussion: Proposing moving New Business a) Cat. 1 Jan. decisions up in agenda. Carried unanimously.

New Business:

Cat 1 Jan. decisions:

MPSCC: the commissioners enthusiastically embraced the proposal. Commissioners Franca Biales and Charlotte McCoid recused themselves during discussion.

Greater Middletown Concert Assoc.: the commissioners enthusiastically embraced the proposal. Commissioner Arafah recused herself during discussion.

NEAR: the commissioners enthusiastically embraced the proposal.

Greater Middletown Chorale: the commissioners enthusiastically embraced the proposal.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick recused herself during discussion.

Oddfellows: the commissioners enthusiastically embraced their proposal.

Artfarm: the commissioners enthusiastically embraced their proposal.

Commissioners Kirkpatrick, Biales, McCoid and Arafah recused themselves from the discussion/votes for the grants. Commissioner Cassandra Day made a motion to grant as follows

with Commissioner Godburn seconding. Discussion included the worthiness of each applicant and the Commission's regret over the cuts to MCA funding.

MPSCC: \$8,000.00

Greater Middletown Concert Assoc.: \$4,000.00

NEAR: \$5,000.00

Greater Middletown Chorale: \$4,000.00

Oddfellows: \$8,000.00

Artfarm: \$6,000.00

A total of \$35,000.00 given in grants for Cat. 1, January 2013. The voting commissioners all in agreement, yea's as follows: Commissioners Godburn, Day, Kamins, Lecce, Linda Salafia, Santangelo, and Lea Tomaszewski.

Remarks from the Chair

Lee passes in light of our full agenda.

Old Business:

Budget Report – Electronically distributed and reviewed.

Program Update

a) Arts Stakeholders Group: no report

b) Arts & Creative Industries Council (Chamber of Commerce): no report

Website – Arts2Go.org - Open blogs leave the site vulnerable to spammers, and the webmaster has installed a "captcha" to halt the majority of spam attempts.

Budget: 2013 – 2014 ongoing. The Mayor is asking for a ten percent drop in all budgets and Coordinator Allison meets with the Mayor next on March 1st.

Committee Reports:

Public Art Committee:

a) Public Art Collection: ongoing.

b) MCAAAA 2013 – ongoing and will resume in earnest in March

c) Display Area Dedication: ongoing

Planning & Projects Committee:

a) 40th Anniversary – ongoing – to be combined with Arts Advocacy Day.

b) Arts Advocacy Day – April 9th, Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The time has been blocked off. Docents will take viewers around with our new catalogs. Commissioner Kirkpatrick will write up the piece on Patricia Evans, a beloved former commissioner. Commissioner Kamins motioned for the Planning and Projects Committee to spend up to one hundred dollars for the April 9th refreshments, seconded by Commissioner Salafia. Carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee:

a) Review of Bylaws: ongoing.

b) Nomination suggestions: ongoing. Nominations have been passed to the Mayor.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): The archives will be moving soon to a new metal storage unit, the site yet to be determined.

New Business:

Grant Panel recommendations/decisions for Cat. 2 & 3 Jan. applications: Commissioners Godburn, Day, and Kirkpatrick conducted the interviews on February 13th at the City Arts Office and presented their recommendations to the full Commission. Commissioner Salafia motioned to accept the recommendations as follows, Kamin seconded.

Wesleyan University, CFA, Middletown Remix project: \$1,000.00

Wesleyan University, Davison Art Center Big Draw project: \$1,000.00

Connecticut Ballet, Summer Caravan project: \$2,000.00

Artists for World Peace, Peace Belt DVD project: \$2,500.00

Jennifer Shafer a/k/a J-Cherry, Middletown Music Festival at MCXX project: \$1,000.00

Discussion followed and passed with the following vote: carried unanimously. A total of \$7,500.00 given in grants for Cat. 2 & 3, January 2013.

Grant Review Process: on going

Other: none

Miscellaneous:

Grant Report Reviews: Oddfellows Playhouse, Cat 2, Sept. 2012. Filed on time and accepted.

Announcements: Roger Shaffer, a former commissioner, and arts advocate has passed away.

Greater Middletown Chorale has two upcoming events: production team will meet with OP Teen Rep on the 28th, and the poet will read from her 90 poems as part of Chorale's commissioned work, *Letter from Italy*, on March 10 at Russell Library. GMCA will be presenting The Morgans on March 10 at the Performing Arts Center @ MHS.

Other: none

Adjournment: Commissioner Kamins moved to adjourn at 9:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Day. Carried. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on March 27, 2013 at the City Arts Office, 100 Riverview Center-Suite 140 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jenny Hawkins Lecce